

Foreign Service Institute

SENIOR SEMINAR IN FOREIGN POLICY

Department of State



1967-1968 Session
August 21, 1967 - June 14, 1968

DESCRIPTION AND OUTLINE

Objective and Scope

The Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy is the most advanced educational program in the field of international relations and foreign policy offered by the Department of State. Its purpose is to assist in the preparation of officers for positions of high responsibility. The Seminar provides an intellectual framework for a free and vigorous inquiry into some of the complexities of foreign policy and US domestic problems. It aims to broaden and deepen the thinking of its Members with regard to both the domestic and foreign affairs of the United States and to stimulate their powers of creative and thoughtful judgment.

The Senior Seminar is a select group of about 25 officers from the principal agencies of the Government concerned with the conduct of US foreign relations. In the Seminar of 1966-67, thirteen were Foreign Service Officers of Classes 1 and 2. The remainder consisted of the following: three from AID, two from USIA and one each from CIA, Commerce, Agriculture, Defense, USAF, USN, USA and the Marine Corps. The Seminar requires the full time of its Members and lasts ten months.

Plan of Study

The Seminar relies greatly on reading and research by the Members, stimulated by discussions with outstanding authorities in relevant fields of inquiry. Guest speakers in the past have included Members of Congress, officials of the federal executive and of local governments, university professors, military leaders and experts in the fields of business, education, industry, labor, religion, arts, sciences and public affairs.

Discussions, reading, documentary films, and oral and written reports are supplemented by individual and group attendance at meetings of professional associations and research organizations, by visits to the United Nations and to military and industrial installations, and by other purposeful domestic and foreign travel. Field trips in the United States give the Members first-hand knowledge regarding some of the political, economic and social problems of various regions of the country. The Seminar of 1966-67 performed over 21,000 miles of group travel within the United States.

Course Content

Because the Members' ages average about 46 and their length of service in Government averages about 22 years, the Seminar is able to range fast and far in its studies. It assumes, particularly in the field of foreign relations, that a considerable body of first-hand knowledge is possessed by the Members.

The Seminar begins with a series of organizational and introductory meetings. This is followed by a full week devoted to the history of the American people--social, economic, ethnic, political and diplomatic. This important series of lectures sets the foundation for studies to follow.

The Seminar attempts to expose its Members to the latest developments world-wide in science, arts, communications, space, atomic energy, industry, commerce, agriculture, labor, education, transportation, the communist threat and counterinsurgency, the poverty program, the Peace Corps, race relations, the city-state relationships, automation, computers, and systems and functional analysis. In doing so, it reminds the Members of much knowledge learned in the past but about which they had not for years thought seriously. The Seminar encourages copious reading and give-and-take discussion in both large and small groups. In the true Seminar tradition, Members are expected to impart knowledge as well as to acquire it.

To the extent possible speakers appearing at the Seminar are keyed to the Seminar's travel plans: thus the Seminar concentrates before visiting the United Nations on "International Relations: Institutions and Concepts." Before visiting military and naval establishments and before visiting industrial installations, the Members will have listened to presentations by the Chiefs of Staff of the armed services, manpower experts, and distinguished economists in a position to deal with the military and economic power of the United States.

Experience has shown the desirability of avoiding overcompartmentalization of the study program.

Individual Travel and Case Studies

Approximately three weeks are provided--from February 26 to March 17--for Members to perform individual field travel in connection with research on foreign policy topics or domestic issues selected by them in consultation with the Seminar's Coordinator. Members are given considerable scope with regard to the subject of their Case Studies and the countries or places they wish to visit, but Members are counseled to explore topics and areas of the world wholly new to them. On returning from individual travel, Members are required to make an oral presentation to the Seminar and to lead a round-table discussion of their topic. The Coordinator on these occasions usually invites special guests and alumni.

The Seminar's Corporate Character

Past Seminars have demonstrated that individual Members can contribute greatly to the Seminar's activities through personal contacts and specialized knowledge: thus an effort is made in scheduling events to avoid rigidity. Calling themselves the Tuesday-Thursday Club, the Members take turns presenting their own topics on as many Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as the regular schedule permits.

Ambassador-of-the-Week Program

When the Seminar is in Washington, certain American Ambassadors returning for consultation and/or leave are invited to speak: Ambassadors of foreign countries located in Washington are similarly invited to make presentations, when their areas are being studied. In each instance, ample time is provided for Members' questions.

SENIOR SEMINAR IN FOREIGN POLICY

Department of State



Tenth Session
August 21, 1967 - June 14, 1968

FACT SHEET

The Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy is the most advanced program of studies in international affairs and foreign policy offered in the United States Government. The Seminar is limited to an honor group of twenty-five senior officials. Half of these are career officers of the American Foreign Service; the other half are officers of an equal degree of achievement and length of service, nominated by other Government Departments in Washington, such as Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, the United States Information Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Agency for International Development. The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps are represented by officers of the rank of Colonel or Naval Captain.

Members are selected on the basis of the excellence of their performances in the past and their potential to achieve positions of greater responsibility in the future. The average age of the Members is 46; their average length of US Government service is 23 years.

The Seminar requires the full time of its Members for an academic year (August - June), during the course of which they carry out a rigorous program of studies in foreign and domestic affairs.

An important aspect of the Seminar's study program is designed to bring the Members up-to-date regarding recent social, economic and industrial developments in the United States. Officers, many of whom have served predominantly in foreign countries and in Washington, are given an opportunity to learn at first hand about developments in various parts of the US, so that in their future assignments they can better represent the US and talk knowledgeably about the recent achievements of the American people. They will be more effective Ambassadors, Deputy Chiefs of Mission, and senior commanding officers by being in touch with the latest developments on the American scene and by hearing local leaders and experts discuss plans and problems.

Aside from the extensive group travel around the United States and its territories, the Members are given an opportunity to perform individual travel to regions of the world in which they have special interest. This individual travel permits the Members to prepare studies useful to them and useful to the United States Government.

The Seminar's activities are coordinated by Ambassador G. Lewis Jones, a Career Minister and Foreign Service officer of more than thirty years' experience. His three most recent positions have been American Minister in London, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, and American Ambassador to Tunisia. He has also served in Greece, Iran, and Egypt. The Deputy Coordinator is Mr. Orson W. Trueworthy, a career Foreign Service officer who has served most recently as Executive Director of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Department of State. The Seminar's Research Assistant, Mr. Robert S. Gelbard, is also a career Foreign Service officer.

The Seminar is a component of the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State. Its Headquarters is on the 12th floor of the Nash Street Office Building (State Annex No. 3), 1400 Key Blvd., Rosslyn, Virginia. Its telephone number is DUDley 3-2528 or Code 182 x2528.

Foreign Service Institute

SENIOR SEMINAR IN FOREIGN POLICY

Department of State



Tenth Session
August 21, 1967 - June 14, 1968

BASIC INFORMATION FOR SPEAKERS

The Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy, held annually since 1958, is the most advanced educational program in international relations and foreign policy offered in the United States Government. Each ten months' session, from August to the following June, occupies the full time of its 25 Members. Usually one half of these are from the upper ranks (FSO-1s and FSO-2s) of the American Foreign Service, many of whom will be assigned, upon completion of the course, to the field either as Chiefs of Mission or Deputy Chiefs of Mission. Other Members in the Seminar are officers of comparable standing in the armed services, the Defense Department and in civilian departments such as Commerce, Agriculture, USIA, and AID. Membership in the Seminar is awarded on the basis of excellence of performance and potential for future leadership. The average age of Members lies in the mid-forties and their average length of Government service is about twenty years.

STATUS OF INFORMATION GIVEN TO SEMINAR:

Remarks made by a speaker, whether or not he is employed by the United States Government, are never quoted or attributed. Traditionally, the discussions and interchange of ideas are considered privileged. Normally, no outside guests are invited, but if so, the speaker's permission is obtained in advance. No reporters or representatives of the press are ever present. All Members are cleared for classified information up to, and including, Top Secret.

PROCEDURE:

The procedure is that of a seminar. There is an opening talk or statement beginning at 9:30 a.m. followed by a discussion. The presentation, which need not be a formal lecture, usually lasts about an hour and sets the frame for a discussion of an hour or more following a coffee break. Most speakers remain seated. One of the Members acts as chairman of the day and coordinates questions. Another serves as an intra-Seminar rapporteur.

LOCATION:

The Seminar occupies part of the twelfth floor of the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute (State Annex No. 3) at 1400 Key Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia (see attached map). The Foreign Service Institute is ten minutes from the main building of the Department of State and twenty minutes' drive from National Airport. The Seminar is unable to provide transportation for speakers, but a free shuttle bus service operates every thirty minutes between Main State and the Foreign Service Institute.

PARKING:

Parking space is available in the building for speakers who drive their own cars. The parking area marked "B Level" is on the Nash Street side of the Foreign Service Institute. Speakers should tell the attendant that they will be speaking to the Senior Seminar. They will be given a special visitors parking ticket, half of which should be placed on the car. The other half should be turned in at the Senior Seminar.

Attachment:
Map